

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 282

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT SW

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT QUESTION DOMINATES CENTER PARTY CONGRESS

REF: STOCKHOLM 2057

BEGIN SUMMARY. ANNUAL CENTER PARTY CONGRESS APPROVED PARTY
LEADER-
SHIP AND PROGRAM. EARLY MOVE BY YOUTH ORGANIZATION TO EXCLUDE
MODERATES FROM A NON- SOCIALIST COALITION TURNED DOWN BY PARENT
PARTY AND YOUTH THEN MOVED TO CLOSE RANKS WITH ELDERS. CONGRESS
ENTHUSIASTICALLY ADOPTED DEMAND FOR ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON
CONSTRUC-
TION OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. CENTER PARTY LEADER FALLDIN,
WHO MAY IN SEPTEMBER BECOME SWEDEN' S FIRST NON- SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PRIME MINISTER IN OVER 40 YEARS, HAS REASON TO BE WELL SATISFIED
WITH RESULTS OF CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. CENTER PARTY HELD ANNUAL CONGRESS AT LULEA JUNE 14-20. CENTER
YOUTH (CUF) AND CENTER WOMEN (VFK) CONDUCTED THEIR OWN SESSIONS
DURING FIRST DAYS OF CONGRESS.

2. DOMINANT THEME PREVADING CONGRESS WAS QUESTION OF COMPOSITON
OF A NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD SOCDEMS (AND COMMUNIST VPK) LOSE
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SEPTEMBER RIKSDAG ELECTION. CENTER LEADER FALLDIN ASSURED PARTY MEMBERS (AND UNDECIDED VOTERS OUTSIDE THE PARTY) THAT CENTER-LIBERAL PRINCIPLES WILL GUIDE A THREE PARTY COALITION AND THAT MODERATES MUST DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO JOIN COALITION UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. A PROPOSED TO FORMALLY EXCLUDE MODERATES WAS REJECTED BY LARGE MAJORITY.

3. SOCDEMS HAVE BEEN WARNING THAT MODERATES, RECENTLY GAINING IN PUBLIC OPINION POLLS (REFTEL), WILL PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN A NEW GOVERNMENT. TACTIC IS TO FRIGHTEN MIDDLE- OF- ROAD VOTERS FROM VOTING FOR CENTER OR LIBERALS SINCE THIS WOULD ALSO BE VOTES FOR MODERATES, PROTRAYED BY SOCDEMS AS ARCH- CONSERVATIVE " GHOST" FROM 1920' S AND 30' S.

4. MODERATE LEADER BOHMAN, IN SPEECH THIS WEEK, HELPED PROSPECTS FOR PARTY COALITION BY SAYING HE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CENTER-LIBERAL CONDITIONS.

5. CUF GAVE FALLDIN MOST PROBLEMS DURING CONGRESS. DURING THEIR EARLIER, SEPARATE SESSION CUF DECLARED ITS OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING MODERATES IN A COALITION. TOWARD END OF CONGRESS CUF CHAIRMAN KARL ERIK OLSSON TONED DOWN EFFECTS OF THIS MOVE BE DECLARING THAT CUF ACCEPTS WILL BE MAJORITY IN PARTY FOR BROADEST PARILMENTARY BASE FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT AND THAT CENTER WAS UNITED IDEOLOGICALLY.

6. OTHERWISE, CONGRESS WENT SMOOTHLY. PREPARED MOTIONS ON WELL KNOWN, IF SOMEWHAT VAGUE, CENTER POSITIONS WERE ACCEPTED WITHOUT CALL FOR A VOTE. FALLDIN' S LEADERSHIP WAS UNCHALLENGED AND OTHER LEADERS WERE ELECTED WITHOUT OPPOSITION. ISSUES WHICH SUBJECT OF 91 MOTIONS INCLUDING CREATION OF 100,000 NEW JOBS, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DECENTRALIZATION, LOWERING PENSION AGE TO 65, CALL FOR A UN CONFERENCE TO STUDY MILTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AND MOVE FOR A ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON BUILDING OF ALL NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN SWEDEN (GOING BEYOND RIKSDAG DECISION IN MAY FOR MORATORIUM ONLY ON PLANTS FOR POST-80' S NOT YET APPROVED).

7. MORATORIUM ISSUE PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. CENTERPARTY HAS BEEN IN FOREFRONT ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS WHICH ALONG WITH DECENTRALIZATION COMPRISE THE " GREEN WAVE" ON WHICH CENTER HAS RIDDEN TO UNPRECEDENTED CREST OF POPULARITY. NOBEL PRIZE WINNER, PHYSICIST HANNES ALFVEN, AS GUEST SPEAKER, GAVE WELL RECEIVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEECH IN WHICH HE REVIEWED PRESENT DEBATE, PARTICULARLY IN US WHERE HE NOW DOES MOST OF HIS WORK, ON INHERENT DANGERS OF

NUCLEAR

ENERGY AND POWER PLANTS. ALFVEN ALSO STRESSED LACK OF CONSISTENCY OF SWEDEN BECOMING A LEADER IN PRODUCTION OF ATOMIC BOMB MATERIAL, PLUTONIUM, WITH SWEDISH POLICIES OF PEACE AND DISARMAMENT. PASSING MORATORIUM, CONGRESS ALSO CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO TAKE NOTE OF CONTINUING RESEARCH ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFETY AND RADIOACTIVITY WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS PUBLIC OPINION POLL RELEASED LAST DAY OF CONGRESS SHOWED THAT CENTER HAD SLIPPED SLIGHTLY (REFTEL) THORBJORN FALLDIN, WHO MAY IN SEPTEMBER BECOME SWEDEN' S FIRST NON- SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER IN OVER 40 YEARS SHOULD BE WELL SATISFIED WITH HIS PARTY' S CONGRESS.
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